CBI cases under Wildlife Protection Act

2542. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has booked more than 13 cases since 1997 under the Wildlife Protection Act and in many cases it has secured convictions;

(b) whether an infamous skin smuggler, involved in 9 cases under the Act since 1988 is still facing preliminary trials and is out on bail;

(c) whether the CBI Wildlife Cell is strapped of expert manpower and whether its Narcotics Cell is doubling up, to handle Wildlife cases; and

(d) whether CBI still depends on expert advise on wildlife from outside NGO circuits and environmental activists?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The CBI has registered 13 cases under Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 since 1996. After completing investigation complaints have been filed in 11 cases.

(b) No such person is involved in any of the wildlife offences detected by CBI.

(c) SIU-XI Branch of CBI is handling Narcotics cases along with offences under Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. No separate staff has been sanctioned to them for dealing with wildlife offences.

(d) Although CBI takes intelligence inputs about wildlife offences from environmental activists from time to time, it is not dependent on such activists for expert advice.

Lease of forest land in Alaganchi forest in Karnataka

2543. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government has requested the Centre, for leasing of 188.40 ha. of forest land in Alaganchi State Forest of Bandipur National Park, for rehabilitation of 154 tribal families uprooted for the purpose of construction of Bandipur National Park; and